

WINTER 2026 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





James T. Genovese (1971)
President
Northwestern State University

Dear Alumni,

As we close out 2025, I want to speak to you with clarity and purpose. Northwestern State University is moving forward with energy that you can feel. Your involvement fuels our momentum, and this year proved what happens when a committed community chooses to rise together.

Our progress is real and visible. NSU now brings an annual economic impact of \$497.1 million to our region. Innovation Park is growing through our work with the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. We launched a refreshed website that strengthens our digital presence. Robert Alost Hall opened its doors and is already shaping a busy center for academic life.

We also welcomed the largest freshman class in four years along with record transfer enrollment. Students arrived with stronger academic preparation, and our housing reached full capacity. Across campus, new accreditations, added degree paths, and competitive grants support breakthroughs in behavioral health, entrepreneurship and workforce development. Partnerships with schools, healthcare leaders, businesses and community groups are creating new opportunities for our students and the region.

These results show what is possible when we set bold goals and follow through. Yet the true story is not about buildings, numbers or projects. It is about people with shared pride investing in the next generation. You helped build this momentum, and you can help carry it into a new year filled with potential.

I invite you to stay engaged, stay vocal and stay connected with NSU. Your support strengthens our reach and helps us open more doors for our students. Join us, celebrate with us, and stand with us as we take the next step. I hope to see you at Flavor of Louisiana on March 20, 2026.

Wishing you peace, health and steady progress in the year ahead.

Fork 'Em Demons



Leah Sherman Middlebrook
(1986, 2016)
Outgoing President
NSU Alumni Association

Guest Message from the Alumni Association Outgoing President

Dear Alumni,

It has been an honor to serve as president of the Alumni Association these past four years, working alongside our "friend raising" board to make exciting things happen for NSU and our alumni family. The impact we've made together reflects the dedicated service of our board, along with the support of alumni and friends who share their time and energy for NSU.

As we head into 2026, I encourage you to join or renew your Alumni Association membership and be part of NSU's bright future.

Now it's time to pass the gavel and the next president is my fellow board member and friend Scott Repp. Exciting things are happening at NSU, and we invite you to GET INVOLVED: attend alumni events, visit campus and experience the changes firsthand and show your support. The calendar will guide you to where and when NSU will be visiting this Spring. See you soon!



Membership also opens doors to events, activities, and exclusive perks.

Visit www.nsu.la/JoinAlumni to find out more!



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Important Dates for 2026

Long Purple Line Nominations

Nominations for Long Purple Line will open at 9 a.m. **Monday, Jan. 5, 2026**, and close at midnight Friday, April 3, 2026.

Nominations can be submitted here:

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/lpl/>

Flavor of Louisiana

NSU's biggest and most popular fund raiser is back! Flavor of Louisiana will take place at 6 p.m. **Friday, March 20** in Prather Coliseum.

Get tickets and more information here:

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/flavor-of-louisiana/>

Golden Jubilee for Class of 1976

NSU will honor 1976 graduates **Wednesday, May 12 and Thursday, May 13**.

Information is available here:

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/golden-jubilee/>

All-N/Demons on the Road

NSU Recruiting, Office of Alumni and Demons Unlimited Foundation have joined forces for a series of ALL-N/Demons on the Road events. A schedule is listed below.

To RSVP for an event near you, visit:

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/demons-on-the-road/>



JANUARY (All-N/Demons events start at 6 p.m.)

January 13 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Baton Rouge** at Mike Anderson's
 January 14 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Lafayette** at Rock N' Bowl
 January 15 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Lake Charles** at Crying Eagle Brewery
 January 20 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Covington** – TBA
 January 21 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **New Orleans** at Lucy's Retired Surfer's Bar & Restaurant – The Attic
 January 22 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Bayou Region** at Rendezvous in Thibodaux
 January 26 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Monroe** at Okaloosa Restaurant
 January 28 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Shreveport** at Savoie's
 January 29 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Bossier City** at Silverstar

FEBRUARY

February 2 – **Leesville** Recruiting Reception in the Home of Matt & Martha Koury
 February 3 – All-N/Demons on the Road, **Alexandria** at Tunk's
 February 5 – **Dallas** Alumni Afterhours at 6 p.m at Big Shucks, 6232 E. Mockingbird Lane

February 26 – **Houston** Alumni Afterhours at 6 p.m. at Ragin Cajun Spring Branch, 1725 Wirt Road
 February 27 – **Natchitoches** Recruiting Reception - TBA
 February 28 – **Louisiana Saturday Night**, sponsored by the Alumni Association & Demon Unlimited Foundation at 6 p.m. at the **Pensacola** Beach Resort

MARCH-JUNE

March 20 – **Flavor of Louisiana** at Prather Coliseum at 6 p.m.
 March 28 – **Dylan Kyle Poche Fishing Tournament** at Toledo Bend
 April 4 – **Lauren Vaughn Scholarship 5K** in Alexandria
 April 14 – **NSU @ LSU Baseball Bus Trip, Crawfish Boil & Game** - TBA
 April 24 – **Chris Roper Memorial Golf Tournament Pre-Party** at 5 p.m. at Antoon's
 April 25 – **44th Chris Roper Memorial Golf Tournament** at Northwestern Hills
 June 5 – **Johnny Antoon Memorial Golf Tournament Pre-Party** at 7 p.m.
 June 6 – **11th Annual Johnny Antoon Golf Tournament** at Northwestern Hills

On the Cover: Alost Hall opened at the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester. The state-of-the-art facility honors former president Dr. Robert Alost

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NSU celebrates opening of Robert Alost Hall with ribbon cutting

NSU hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 3 in the atrium of Robert Alost Hall, the 73,200-square-foot academic building that opened this semester.

Administrators from NSU and the University of Louisiana System, the Alost family, former presidents, faculty, staff, students, alumni, public servants and legislative partners were on hand for the ribbon-cutting that was scheduled as part

of Homecoming festivities.

The state-of-the-art building “will transform how we teach, learn and conduct research,” said Dr. Greg Handel, provost and executive vice president.

Wes Alost, son of Robert Alost, expressed appreciation on behalf of his mother Alma and the Alost family to those who made the project a reality.

“Pop would be so proud that a building devoted to learning bears his name,”

Wes Alost said. “As everyone knows, he devoted his career and his life to education and teaching. Pop and Mom devoted their lives to Northwestern through times when it would have been much easier to turn their backs and seek greener pastures elsewhere. We also know that Pop could not have accomplished what he did without the tenacious support and hard work of countless individuals. Pop never stopped coaching even when there was no longer a game.”

NSU President James Genovese acknowledged with thanks NSU’s partnership with AQ Studios, DonahueFavret Contractors and Perkins&Will architecture firm in completing the project on schedule, and the persistence of numerous individuals who worked to carry the project forward. That includes former presidents Dr. Marcus Jones and Dr. Chris Maggio, Jen Kelly, executive director for University Affairs, and numerous individuals in Facility Services, as well as the president’s Leadership Team and the late Jerry Pierce, the late Lola Dunahoe, who were strong advocates of the project.

As part of the opening, NSU Student Government Association President Madysen Morgan of Bossier City unveiled a portrait of Alost by artist Edgar Cano-Lopez, a member of the Fine and Graphic Arts faculty. The SGA Portrait Project ensures that buildings and prominent spaces named after individuals feature a portrait of that person.

Construction on the \$45 million project began in March 2023. Looming over Sam Sibley Drive in the heart of campus, Alost Hall features large multipurpose and multifunctional classrooms, simulation labs for nursing and anesthesia programs, a social work/psychology clinic and training area, a café, a dozen 30-person classrooms, two 40-person classrooms and three 50-person classrooms. The building houses 60 faculty offices and an administrative suite for deans, department heads and administrative assistants, a large conference room and reception area. There are also seating areas inside and outside the building for students between classes.

Alost Hall is situated at the former site of Caddo Hall, a 1960s residential facility that was razed in preparation for the new

continued on next page





NSU and ULS System leadership, the Alost family, legislators and construction partners gathered to cut a ribbon to ceremonially open Dr. Robert Alost Hall Oct. 3. The 73,200-square-foot academic building opened this fall and replaced Kyser Hall as the university's main academic building.

building. Alost Hall replaces John S. Kyser Hall, constructed in 1968, as the university's main academic building.

Dr. Robert Alost was president of Northwestern State from 1986-1996. Alost graduated from NSU in 1957 and commissioned as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army through NSU's ROTC program. He earned a master's degree at NSU in 1958 and entered active duty, serving two years and earning the rank of Captain.

Before becoming president of NSU, Alost served NSU as a faculty member, department head and dean. He was also co-founder of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts and director of the school from 1982 to 1986. During his presidency at NSU, Alost led the university to an unprecedented period of growth when enrollment at Northwestern State increased from 5,272 to more than 9,000. That substantial increase laid the foundation for progress in academic achievement, athletic success, facility enhancements and other accomplishments that provided ongoing stability for the university after a period of declining enrollment and fiscal uncertainty. He died 2020 at age 85.



Artist and associate professor Edgar Cano Lopez and SGA President Madysen Morgan unveiled a portrait of Dr. Robert Alost as part of the SGA Portrait Project that ensures that buildings named after individuals feature a portrait of the person honored.

BOM Bank will be anchor tenant for The CoLab entrepreneurial hub

BOM Bank will be the anchor tenant of The CoLab, a collaborative workspace within the Innovation Park being developed in partnership with NSU and the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. The CoLab will be designed to connect business and industry partners with students, entrepreneurs and community members, according to developers.

"The CoLab will serve as a dynamic center for entrepreneurship, business development and collaboration," NSU President James Genovese said. "The space will offer flexible office rentals, coworking options and access to start-up resources, all within a supportive environment that fosters innovation and connection."

As the anchor tenant at The CoLab, BOM Bank will have an office and dedicated teller space in the facility, access to shared amenities, brand visibility and opportunities to collaborate on financial literacy initiatives, student internships and business development programs within the university community. BOM Bank's lease will be for five years starting Jan. 1, 2027.

"BOM Bank is proud to be the official bank of NSU and NSU Athletics. Joining forces with Northwestern State University as the CoLab's Anchor Tenant strengthens not only our relationship with the university, but also our commitment to its faculty, students, and the entire community. The CoLab represents innovation, collaboration, and opportunity — values that reflect both NSU and BOM Bank's shared vision for the future," said Ken Hale, president and CEO of BOM Bank.

"The CoLab represents the next step in building meaningful bridges between higher education and the business community. We are excited to have BOM Bank as our anchor tenant for the CoLab — the perfect opportunity for students to engage with and learn about the banking industry firsthand," said Laurie Morrow, NSU's executive director of Economic Development and University Advancement. "It's more than an office space. It's a place where ideas take shape, partnerships form and future leaders are developed."

Key features of The CoLab include:

- Collaborative Workspaces – Modern



From left are Brandy Myers, BOM Bank senior vice president and chief human resources officer; Lyn Jones, BOM Bank senior vice president and chief retail banking officer; Tyler Murchison, BOM Bank executive vice president and chief lending officer; Kathy Myers, BOM Bank senior vice president - chief compliance officer and BSA officer/OFAC; NSU President James Genovese, Carrie Hough, BOM Bank chief marketing officer; Ken Hale, BOM Bank president and CEO; Laurie Morrow, NSU executive director of Economic Development and University Advancement; NSU CFO Rodney Wilson, NSU Associate Director of Innovation Jill Leo, NSU Associate Director of Corporate and Community Engagement Danielle Cobb, Abby Williams, BOM Bank marketing intern; Micah Murchison, BOM Bank Louisiana marketing manager, and Cole Gentry, NSU chief marketing officer.

coworking areas designed for creativity and productivity

- Private Office Rentals – Flexible office suites for entrepreneurs, start-ups and small businesses
- Business Start-Up Resources – Access to mentoring, workshops and professional development opportunities
- Student Engagement – Direct connections between businesses and Northwestern State students for internships, employment and project-based learning

"The CoLab is envisioned as a hub where innovation thrives and ideas become reality," Morrow said. "The CoLab will bring together business leaders, educators and students in a shared mission to drive regional economic growth and workforce development."

BOM Bank was established in 1903 in Montgomery and has grown from a local institution with \$15,000 in capital to a community-focused bank with over \$1.4 billion in assets. Serving more than 32,500 customers across 26 branches in Louisiana and Texas, BOM Bank offers a range of financial services, including banking, insurance and investment opportunities through its subsidiary, BOM Financial

Services. With a deep commitment to community engagement and employee development, BOM Bank continues to build on its legacy of trust and service.

The CoLab and the New Family Makerspace will make up the NSU/LSMSA Innovation Park, a 12-acre site fronting University Parkway. The Park will serve as the gateway to Natchitoches for travelers from I-49 marking the entrance to the revitalized Campus Edge District along University Parkway. The \$18 million project is supported by a combination of federal, state and private funding.

BOM Bank has been a longtime partner of the university, serving as the university's official bank and the official bank of Athletics and numerous other campus initiatives.

For more information on NSU's Office of Economic Development and University Advancement, visit <https://www.nsula.edu/about/executive-offices/office-of-economic-development-innovation-and-outreach/>.

For information on the Innovation Park visit <https://www.nsula.edu/about/executive-offices/office-of-economic-development-innovation-and-outreach/innovation-park/>.



Student Union Room 221 will henceforth be known as the Dean Leonard O. Nichols Blue Key Honor Society Room following a dedication program Oct. 3. From left are Dean of Students Reatha Cox, Blue Key members Nicole Miller, Jayda Gee, Alonda Torres, Chapter President Christopher Richard, Abigail Petermann, SGA President Madysen Morgan, family members J. Larry Kees, Rhonda Kees, Lynn Kees and Lori Kees, Eli Dyjack, Caroline Blanchard, Paige Lindsey, Alex Laurent, Alyssa Austin, Christian James, Bryce Juneau and Callie McDowell.

Student Union meeting room dedicated to Dean Leonard O. Nichols

Northwestern State University's chapter of Blue Key Honor Society dedicated Student Union Room 221 in memory of Dean Leonard O. Nichols to honor the late administrator's commitment to Blue Key, higher education and excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. The dedication took place Oct. 3 as part of Homecoming festivities. Room 221 serves as meeting space for numerous campus organizations throughout the academic year.

"This will be a reminder to all who enter that Dean Nichols truly lived the motto 'Serving I live,'" said Reatha Cox, vice president for the Student Experience and dean of Students. "Our chapter is very active on campus. The men and women of this organization serve the university in so many ways."

Blue Key Honor Society is a national coeducational organization for upperclassmen who are campus leaders. Members assist with commencement ceremonies and other special occasions and generate funds for service projects on campus and in the Natchitoches community.

Nichols, a 1946 graduate of NSU, became assistant dean of men

at NSU in 1953 and was promoted to dean in 1963. "Dean Nick," as he was called by students, retired in 1970. He was responsible for establishing NSU's chapter of Blue Key Honor Society in 1959 and served as chapter advisor until his retirement. The chapter established the Dean Nichols Award in 1972 to commemorate his longtime service to the university and his significant contributions to Blue Key. Nichols was instrumental in organizing an alumni chapter of Blue Key in 1983, which was the first official alumni chapter in the nation.

Nichols also was advisor to the Interfraternity Council, coordinator of the Cheerleader School and served as a mentor to the Student Personnel graduate program.

Supporters who wish to contribute to the renovation fund can do so by visiting the following link or QR code. <https://northwesternstatealumni.com/nichols-blue-key-room-renovation/>



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Innovation drives workforce growth at LaRuE Summit

Northwestern State University showcased its leadership in advancing rural workforce development through artificial intelligence, drone technology and advanced manufacturing at the Louisiana Rural Economic Development Summit, hosted by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville.

The summit brought together leaders in business, education, technology and government to address opportunities and challenges facing rural communities. Featured speakers included representatives from META, Louisiana Central, the Louisiana Board of Regents and Louisiana Main Street.

NSU highlighted its commitment to preparing Louisiana's rural workforce with cutting-edge technology and industry partnerships.

NSU alumnus Monty Chicola, president of Real Vision Software, participated in a panel on artificial intelligence, underscoring how AI-driven solutions are



NSU faculty, staff, students and alumni representing multiple disciplines participated in the Louisiana Rural Economic Development Summit. The event brought together leaders in business, education, technology and government to address opportunities and challenges facing rural communities.



Pictured are Connie Baker, Advanced Manufacturing Program liaison for RoyOMartin; Laurie Morrow, director of NSU's Office of Economic Development and University Advancement, and Jennifer DePriest, Region 6 STEM coordinator.

shaping industries across Louisiana and creating new career pathways for rural communities.

Connie D. Baker, Advanced Manufacturing Program liaison for RoyOMartin, shared insight on how NSU's Advanced Manufacturing Program equips students with high-demand technical skills. Through its unique academic/work rotation model, students gain both classroom knowledge and direct industry experience, strengthening the regional workforce pipeline.

JD Cox, coordinator of NSU's Advanced Remote and Geospatial Operations (ARGO) Lab, delivered a keynote presentation demonstrating the university's drone technology and its applications in workforce training, research and rural development. The program provides students with marketable skills in aviation safety, logistics and public safety applications, while supporting industries in central Louisiana.

Collectively, these initiatives position NSU as a leader in preparing students with future-ready skills that foster economic growth and opportunity across rural Louisiana.

NSU's delegation to the summit included faculty, staff, students and alumni representing multiple disciplines. Participants included Danielle Cabrera, NSU recruiter for Central Louisiana; Samantha Grant, NSU Marksville campus coordinator; Jennifer DePriest, Region 6 STEM coordinator; Adelaide Soileau and Travis Mitchell of NSU's ARGO Lab; students from the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health (CONSAH), and Laurie Morrow, Gwen Fontenot and Danielle Cobb of NSU's Office of Economic Development and University Advancement.

The university's collaboration with the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe continues to play a vital role in regional economic and workforce development. In May 2023, NSU and the Tribe formalized a five-year memorandum of understanding designed to expand educational opportunities, provide first-generation scholarships and support adult learners through continuing education. The agreement builds on NSU's American Indian Opportunity Plan, which provides tuition waivers for citizens of federally recognized tribes.

"The Louisiana Rural Economic Development Summit reflects the collaborative spirit that is vital to the

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Northwestern and Natchitoches Chamber partner to connect students, alumni and employers through Handshake network

NSU's Career Center, the Office of Economic Development and University Advancement and the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce have partnered to expand career connections for students and alumni through Handshake, the nation's leading early talent network.

Handshake is a three-sided marketplace linking students, universities and employers. Serving as the official career services platform for more than 1,500 academic institutions, Handshake reaches 75 percent of the U.S. university student population. More than one million employers—from Fortune 500 companies to local businesses—actively recruit talent on the platform.

Handshake

The Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce is working closely with the partnership to recruit employers within a 100-mile radius of Natchitoches to join Handshake. This initiative is designed to create more regional opportunities for NSU graduates and help retain talent in Louisiana after graduation.

For alumni, this collaboration opens two doors:

Career Growth: Alumni can register for Handshake with a non-academic email address to explore job opportunities and build connections across industries.

Recruiting the Next Generation of Demons: Alumni business owners,



Students visited with representatives of several businesses at last fall's Part-Time Job Fair, presented by NSU Career Services.

managers, and recruiters can easily post internships and full-time roles, directly supporting NSU students while strengthening their own workforce.

"Our alumni are one of NSU's greatest assets," said Tiffany Killion, NSU's director of Career Services. "Handshake allows them not only to benefit from the network themselves, but also to give back by opening doors for the next generation of Demons. Combined with the Chamber's regional outreach, this effort will keep more of our talented graduates here at

home, building stronger communities and businesses."

By bringing together students, alumni and employers, this initiative creates a powerful pipeline that fuels both career success and regional economic growth. It ensures that the Demon family remains connected—on campus, in the workplace and throughout our communities.

For details on how alumni can join Handshake as users or employers, visit <https://www.nsula.edu/student-resources/career-center/>.

Rural Economic Development *continued*

growth of our region," Morrow said. "Northwestern State University is proud to highlight how our programs in artificial intelligence, drones and advanced manufacturing are preparing Louisiana's rural workforce for the jobs of tomorrow."

The two-day summit emphasized the importance of collaboration among higher education, industry and community partners to strengthen the economic vitality of rural Louisiana.

For more information on NSU's role in regional economic development initiatives, visit www.nsula.edu.



Danielle Cabrera, NSU recruiter for Central Louisiana; alum Monty Chicola, Jennifer DePriest, Region 6 STEM coordinator, and Samantha Grant, NSU Marksville campus coordinator, were among the NSU delegation that participated in the Louisiana Rural Economic Summit in Marksville, hosted by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana.



Northwestern State University inducted seven alumni into the Long Purple Line as part of Homecoming festivities. From left are Richard Keith Bergeron, Jacquie Crew, who was inducted along with her husband, the late Robert Crew; Dr. Marcus Jones, Angela Lasyone, Lee Posey and Chris Weaver and NSU President, James Genovese. Induction into the Long Purple Line is the highest honor NSU bestows upon alumni.

NSU honors Long Purple Line inductees, distinguished alumni NSU

Seven graduates of Northwestern State University were honored with induction into the Long Purple Line, the university's Alumni Hall of Distinction, Oct. 3. This year's honorees are **Richard Keith Bergeron** of New Roads, the late **Robert Crew**, **Jacquie Crew** of Shreveport, **Dr. Marcus Jones** of Winnfield, **Angela Lasyone** and **Lee Posey** of Natchitoches and **Christine "Chris" Weaver** of Lafayette.

Biographical information about each inductee can be accessed here: <https://www.nsula.edu/press-room/northwestern-state-university-names-seven-alumni-to-long-purple-line/>.

Induction into the Long Purple is the highest honor the university bestows on alumni. The Long Purple Line was established in 1990 to provide recognition and appreciation to individuals whose career accomplishments or service to their fellow man have enhanced the reputation and prestige of Northwestern State. Selection may be based upon past or continuing achievements in individuals' careers, exemplary and extraordinary service to

community, state and nation or both career accomplishments and service to mankind including service to their alma mater.

The awards were presented during a luncheon and program at the Natchitoches Events Center Friday as part of Homecoming festivities.



The Alumni Association also presented awards to several individuals with a demonstrated history of service to the university.

Britney Burton Spivey received the Outstanding Young Alumna Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented is to a graduate with early record of distinguished service to Northwestern who is 40 years old or younger. Reatha Cox collected the award on Spivey's behalf.

Scott Andrews received the Outstanding Alumnus Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated dedication and loyalty to Northwestern's programs and mission and continued interest in serving the university in his/her life as a volunteer, donor and/or advocate.

Camille Nunez Blanchard and **John Evans** were named NSU Alumni Association Volunteers of the Year. This award recognizes an exemplary record of volunteer time, talents and service to the

continued on next page

Read more about each of this year's inductees at <https://nsu.la/LPL2025>

NSU recognizes 2025 College of Education honorees

NSU's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development honored this year's inductees into the Hall of Distinguished Educators as well as two Outstanding Young Professionals in Education as part of Homecoming festivities.

This year's distinguished educators are the late **Cheryl Corkran**, the late **Linda Doll Lee** and **James Scriber** of Homer. **Alyson Erikson** of Natchitoches and **Dr. Aaron Williams** of Dallas are this year's Outstanding Young Professionals.

The Hall of Distinguished Educators is the highest honor bestowed by the School of Education. Nominees must have earned an education degree from Northwestern State University, must have a minimum of 30 years of service in the field of education and must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community at a local, state, national or international level. Nominees may be living or deceased.

Outstanding Young Professionals in Education must have earned an education degree from NSU and have a minimum of 10 years of service in the field of education. Nominees must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community. Nominees must be age 45 or younger.

Biographies of the honorees can be viewed here: <https://www.nsula.edu/press-room/nsu-announces-2025-hall-of-distinguished-educators/>



NSU's Gallaspy College of Education honored 2025 inductees into the Hall of Distinguished Educators and Outstanding Young Professionals. From left are Edd Lee accepting on behalf of the late Linda Doll Lee, James Scriber, Pamela LaRosee accepting on behalf of the late Cheryl Corkran, Alyson Erikson and Dr. Aaron Williams.

honors NSU honors NSU honors NSU honors NSU honors NSU honors

NSU Alumni Association and active involvement with a chapter, alumni interest group, affiliate program, NSU Alumni Board or other forms of volunteer service to Northwestern.

Dr. Vickie Gentry was recognized with the Distinguished Supporter Service Award. This award is presented to an individual who did not graduate from Northwestern State, but exhibits support for NSU through academics, athletics or the university's mission and community initiatives and has been active in initiatives that have positively affected the students, faculty, alumni and the community.



NSU presented awards to several individuals for their contributions, service and volunteerism to the university. From left are Scott Andrews, Reatha Cox representing Brittany Burton Spivey, Camille Nunez Blanchard, John Evans and Dr. Vickie Gentry.

PEOPLE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...

Wallace helps individuals SOAR through teaching, counseling

Dr. Tarkisha M. Wallace, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor and National Certified Counselor based in Baton Rouge and an assistant professor of counselor education at NSU. As the founder of Soar Counseling and Consulting Services, LLC, she is dedicated to helping individuals and families navigate life's challenges, heal emotional wounds and achieve personal growth.

Wallace is a proud alumna of NSU, having earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2005 and Master of Arts in Student Personnel Services – Counseling in 2008. She has over a decade of experience providing compassionate, evidence-based care to children, adolescents and adults. Her therapeutic approach blends Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Person-Centered

Counseling and Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) to empower

clients to build resilience and rediscover hope.

Wallace's personal journey through adversity inspired her mission to help

others Soar – finding strength, optimism, awareness and renewal through the counseling process. In addition to her clinical practice, she serves as a mentor and supervisor for provisional LPCs, supporting the next generation of mental health professionals.

Wallace's work spans a wide range of focus areas, including anxiety, depression, anger management, family dynamics, life transitions and grief recovery. Known for her authenticity, empathy, and practical wisdom, Wallace has become a trusted advocate for mental wellness across Louisiana communities.

Wallace visited with a colleague recently to talk about her passion for helping others, her private practice Soar and her transition from counseling to academia. The conversation has been edited and condensed for clarity.

Can you tell me about your background and education? When did you become interested in counseling?

I grew up in Baton Rouge and began attending NSU in the fall of 2001, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Speech. While at NSU, I was active in several student organizations, serving as president of the NSU Angels, a basketball auxiliary organization, and as a proud member of the Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2005.

Following a very personal loss, I returned to Northwestern to pursue a Master of Arts in Student Personnel Services, Counseling track and completed the program in 2008. I was drawn to counseling during that time of grief; it was in my own season of healing that I recognized how vital it was for others to have access to the same kind of support I so deeply needed. That experience became the foundation for my passion for helping others through loss and emotional recovery.

What drew you to enroll at NSU as an undergrad?

Initially, I wasn't sure where I wanted to attend college, but not going

wasn't an option in my household. My mother had a friend whose daughter attended NSU and spoke very highly of her experience, so we decided to visit. For my parents, NSU was close enough to reach me if needed but far enough to allow me to gain independence and grow. By the end of my first semester in fall 2001, I had fallen in love with the campus culture, student life and the community that makes Northwestern so special.

Did you have any special mentors or outstanding experiences that impacted you as a student?

Graduate school brought two individuals who left a lasting impression on my life. Dr. Danny Seymour became a mentor and has continued to be a source of support and encouragement even 17 years later. I also had Mrs. Frances Conine as my Counseling Skills instructor, and her compassion and understanding during my time of grief made a profound impact. The kindness and guidance both provided still influence the way I teach, counsel and mentor others today.

What drew you from the counseling practice to the university/academic setting?

I often say that while I am a great counselor, I'm an even better trainer. I have a deep love for training and professional development, and teaching allows me to merge those passions. Educating and preparing future counselors to serve in the field is one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career. I view this season of my life as one focused on imparting knowledge, compassion and practical skill to the next generation of counselors, helping them develop the confidence and competence to carry the profession forward.

Can you talk about Soar?

Soar Counseling and Consulting Services is my private practice, which I founded in 2015. At the time, I had stepped into a leadership role that involved more administrative oversight than direct counseling. Soar allowed me to continue doing the clinical work I loved while also mentoring and developing professionals

continued on next page



Burkett earns Maddox Prize for Standing Up for Science

Dr. Virginia Burkett of Many was awarded the 2025 John Maddox Prize, an annual award established by Sense about Science, an international organization that promotes the public interest and sound science evidence, and the scientific journal "Nature." The prize honors those who have shown courage in defending science and evidence-based policy, especially in the face of public hostility.

The award validates Burkett's long career as a research scientist and recognizes "her significant body of work to improve understanding of the impact of climate change on ecosystems, and for her insistence that these impacts were appropriately and honestly represented," according to journal "Nature."

Burkett is former chief scientist for Climate and Land Use Change at the U.S. Geological Survey and former chair of the U.S. Global Change Research Program. She has authored roughly 100 scientific publications on wetlands, climate change and coastal systems. The Maddox Prize recognizes her defense of science focused on the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. She traveled to London to receive the award.

"Early in my career as a natural resource manager, I learned the value of science to support decision making," Burkett said in her acceptance remarks. "I relied on science to manage threatened fish and wildlife populations and to guide coastal management decisions. From those experiences I learned pretty quickly that when scientific findings collided with the financial interests of powerful corporations and politicians, scientific integrity could be threatened."

Burkett earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern State University and a doctoral degree in forestry from Stephen F. Austin University. In addition to serving as chief of the Forest

Ecology Branch of the U.S.G.S. National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, she was the first female in the United States to be appointed director of a state fish and wildlife department when she was appointed secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in 1988.

Burkett has published extensively on the topics of global change and low-lying coastal zones. She was nominated by the U.S. government to be lead author on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports (2001, 2007 and 2014) and the IPCC Technical Paper on Water (2008). She was lead author of three National Assessments of climate change impacts produced by the United States Global Change Research Program. She also served on over 70 committees, commissions, science panels and boards during her career. She was among the several hundred authors who contributed to the IPCC reports that garnered the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. She is a Scientist Emerita for the U.S.G.S.

Although she retired in January 2025, she continues to work on research publications that she had already started. She also devotes time to her church and to her alma mater, Northwestern State.



Dr. Virginia Burkett traveled to London to accept the John Maddox Prize, which honors those who have shown courage in defending science and evidence-based policy. She is pictured at left with husband, Don Burkett.



"I spend a lot of time lecturing early career scientists and college students interested in ecology and natural resource management," she said. "The most lasting impacts of my efforts are probably on young people. I hope that my work has inspired public awareness and understanding of the influence of human activities on coastal systems and the earth's climate."

Burkett donated the Maddox Prize monetary award to the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund and the IPCC Scholarship Fund to benefit young scientists.

Burkett and her husband Don Burkett, also a graduate of Northwestern State, were inducted in the NSU's Long Purple Line, the alumni hall of distinction, in 2011.

Wallace *continued*

in leadership and mental health settings. It represents both my commitment to helping individuals heal and my dedication to empowering professionals to grow.

What would you say to an individual interested in the field of counseling?

Counseling is truly "heart work." While we learn techniques and theory, at its

core, counseling begins with empathy, compassion and the desire to help others. The counselor's role often leaves a lifelong impression; people may forget what we say, but they rarely forget how we made them feel. It's a field that requires both skill and heart, and it's an incredible privilege to walk alongside others as they navigate their healing journey.

Information on NSU's Bachelor of Arts in Psychology is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/program/bachelor-of-science-in-psychology/>. Information on the Master of Science in Psychology-Clinical is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/program/master-of-science-in-psychology-clinical/>. Information on the Master of Arts in Counseling is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/program/master-of-arts-in-counseling/>

Thompson Scholarship established for students with love for the water

Mark Thompson of Boyce established a scholarship at Northwestern State that he'd like to benefit a person who shares his love of the water. The Mark Thompson Family Scholarship will assist a students involved in bass fishing, rowing or other watersport team for one year.

Thompson, who graduated from NSU with a degree in social sciences in 1984, was responsible for organizing the university's water ski team from the ground up.

"When I arrived at Northwestern, my brother was already there and he and I both were competitive water skiers, so I started the

water ski team and competed for the next four years," he said.

In the beginning, the team used Thompson's bass fishing boat and practiced on Sibley Lake where they put in a ramp and slalom course, sponsored by Nautique Boats, that later moved to north Cane River. They recruited more team members, including women, by teaching classes and competed in south central regional intercollegiate tournaments.

Dr. Arthur Allen, a life sciences professor, was faculty advisor and his son Steve Allen was a member of the team.

"We had a good run. We came out and beat LSU the last three years and that was a goal of mine, so we had a successful little run there," he said. "I made a lot of friends that kept me in school when my grades weren't so good."

After graduation, Thompson started several family businesses, eventually becoming involved in ownership and management of nursing homes, home health agencies and other businesses. He retired three years ago. He and his wife divide their time between Kincaid Lake and Key West, Florida, where their daughter, after graduating from Colorado State University, received an internship. She continues to live and work in Key West on the water.

"I think the water runs in my family."

Although NSU no longer has a ski team, Thompson was interested in supporting NSU students. An avid saltwater and freshwater fisherman, he thought a scholarship for a student interested in fishing or rowing would be appropriate. The ideal recipient, he said, is not necessarily the most outstanding academic, but "someone with a strong passion for water sports."

"The area of study doesn't concert me as much. Somebody that wants to be connected to a group of people that share the same passion, that will keep them motivated, practicing and bettering themselves," he said.



Mark, Tammy and MaryBret Thompson



PURPOSE: to promote the sport of water skiing through group participation, sponsoring exhibitions, shows, tournaments, and associated recreational activities for mutual benefit of the members. **ACTIVITIES:** Fifth place at the Baylor University tournament, Fourth place at the Oklahoma State University tournament, overall Fourth place (of twenty-eight teams) at the South Central Conference Championships at Monroe.

1. A member of the team concentrates as he practices his slalom skiing. 2. Row 1: Sally Berry, Secretary, Mark Thompson, President, Fred Hamilton, Tournament Director. Row 2: Nicholas Choate, Tournament Director, Michael LaCombe, Vice-President, G. Thad Cangelosi, Jeff Powell, Tournament Director.



Salter Scholarship continues legacy of service through education

The late Joe Salter, a distinguished alumnus of Northwestern State University and former Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and his family were honored during a scholarship celebration Dec. 5 in which University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors Member Robert "Skeeter" Salim announced the Joe and Bettye Salter Family Scholarship created and fully endowed at \$100,000 through the NSU Foundation.

Family, friends, colleagues and alumni were present for the announcement. Salim spoke of the late Mr. Salter as a man of faith and character, the epitome of a gentleman.

"Joe loved his family and when we were talking about doing this endowment, which will benefit children for the next 100 years through education, I said he wouldn't want this to be the Joe Salter memorial scholarship. He would want it to be the Joe and Bettye Salter Scholarship and that's what we've done," Salim said.

NSU President James Genovese said Mrs. Salter was "the wind beneath the wings of Joe Salter."

"We gather to recognize a life defined by service, leadership and an unwavering belief in the power of education," Genovese said. "Joe Salter was not only an outstanding public servant, a respected legislator and a proud alumnus of this great university, he was a man whose work shaped communities, strengthened our state and elevated opportunities for countless Louisianians."

Mr. Salter passed away in August. He was one of the most respected leaders in state government. Elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1986, he served more than 20 years. As the 62nd Speaker of the House, he was the first from his district to hold the position. Alongside his legislative service, Salter devoted his career to education as a teacher and administrator in the Sabine Parish school system.

Salter also served as a member of the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors, which is the management board over nine public universities, including NSU. A Florien resident, he was reappointed by Governor Jeff Landry on January 4, 2025, to represent the 4th Congressional District, with his term extending through December 31, 2030.

Throughout his service, Salter demonstrated outstanding leadership and was the recipient of numerous honors, including awards from the Louisiana Council on Aging, Louisiana Public



Members of the Salter family were honored Dec. 5 during the announcement of the Joe and Bettye Salter Scholarship funded by a donation to the NSU Foundation from Robert "Skeeter" Salim. Pictured from left are Tammy Salter, Riley Salter, Brantley Salter, Bettye Salter, Salim, Billy Gibbs, Mandy Gibbs and Tyler Gibbs.

Broadcasting and the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, as well as induction into NSU's Long Purple Line, the university's alumni hall of distinction, and multiple halls of fame recognizing his work in education, politics and athletics.

Speaking on behalf of his parents, Brantley Salter said the scholarship and celebration were a testimony to his father's life and legacy.

"What an amazing thing for my sister and I to live the rest of our lives seeing this happen every year, seeing such an amazing endowment go on and help people through education," Brantley Salter said. "I know that my daddy would be more than ecstatic."

Friends can contribute to the scholarship by visiting www.northwesternstatealumni.com/salter-scholarship. Checks can also be mailed to the NSU Foundation, 535 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71497 with Memo: Joe and Bettye Salter Scholarship.

THE NSU FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEWLY ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIPS.

Gail Bolton Scholarship

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/bolton-scholarship/>

Cane River Waterway Commission Scholarships

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/cane-river-scholarship/>
<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/cane-river-graduate-scholarship/>

Grady Harper Visual Arts Scholarship

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/harper-scholarship/>

Joe and Margaret Pierson Family Scholarship

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/pierson-scholarship/>

Joe and Bettye Salter Memorial Scholarship

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/salter-scholarship/>

Ed Tunstall Journalism Endowed Scholarship

<https://northwesternstatealumni.com/tunstall-scholarship/>

WAYS TO GIVE
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NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

McConathy, Strother earn induction into 2026 LSHOF

The relationship between Louisiana's sports shrine and its adopted hometown will be strengthened in June.

Two members of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2026 have deep ties to Northwestern State – former Demon head men's basketball coach **Mike McConathy**, the state's all-time leader in basketball coaching victories, and six-time state champion girls basketball coach **Dewain Strother**, who is second nationally in all-time girls basketball coaching victories.

The two will join six other competitive-ballot inductees and four additional honorees in Natchitoches for the 2026 induction weekend June 25-27. Joining McConathy and Strother in the class the Hall are Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Sylvia Fowles, NFL stars Joe Horn, Todd McClure and Pat Williams, Major League Baseball All-Star Jonathan Lucroy and McConathy's contemporary on the college basketball sidelines, John Brady.

Former LSU College World Series hero Warren Morris will join the group as the winner of the Ambassador Award, which is being awarded for the third time and first since 2024.

A Bossier City native, McConathy spent 23 seasons at Northwestern, coaching the Demons to 330 of his state-record 682 victories and three NCAA Tournament berths.

It took McConathy just two seasons to transform the Demons, taking the 2000-01 Northwestern squad to its first NCAA Tournament and the first tournament win in program history – a 71-67 triumph over Winthrop. That victory allowed McConathy to help build on a Demon legacy built by his father and his uncles, all of whom played at Northwestern.

Five years later after that first NCAA Tournament berth, McConathy's "Demons of Destiny" delivered one of March

Madness' signature buzzer-beating upsets in 2006 when Jermaine Wallace's late 3-pointer capped a stunning



second-half comeback to lift 14th-seeded Northwestern to a victory that lives on every March in NCAA Tournament highlight packages.

McConathy's third NCAA Tournament team came in 2013 when his Southland Conference regular-season runner-ups outlasted rival Stephen F. Austin in the SLC Tournament championship game to earn its spot in the big dance. A member of the Louisiana Tech and NSU athletic halls of fame, McConathy also has been enshrined in the Ark-La-Tex Museum of Champions and the Northwestern State Hall of Distinguished Educators – the latter coming after spending 23 years as a member of the university faculty.

In addition to graduating more than 90 percent of his NSU players, McConathy mentored five future Division I head coaches during his Demon tenure. Those who followed their leader's footsteps to the top spot on the bench were Buzz Williams (currently at Maryland), Paul Weir (New Mexico), Dave Simmons (McNeese) and Mark Slessinger (New Orleans).

Northwestern christened Mike McConathy Court at Prather Coliseum on Feb. 15, 2025, adding to his list of honors for his 43-year coaching career that began as the girls basketball coach at his prep alma mater. McConathy's team's lived by the slogan, "The MVP of our team is our team," something his induction into the state's biggest sports shrine echoed.

McConathy's coaching career continued at Bossier Parish Community College where he built a program from scratch and led it to seven seasons of 23-plus

victories and two trips to the NJCAA national tournament, including a seventh-place finish.

As a player, McConathy was a prep All-American guard at Airline before becoming the Southland Player of the Year in 1977 as part of a Louisiana Tech career where he averaged 20.7 points per game. Just as his coaching career circled back to his father, so did McConathy's time as a player.

Like McConathy, Strother built a remarkable winning legacy on the hardwood.

A two-time Northwestern State graduate – bachelor's in 1974, master's in 1984 – Strother built a girls basketball dynasty at Florien High School, located roughly 40 miles southwest of Natchitoches in hoops-crazed Sabine Parish.

It was in – and out of – the classroom at Northwestern where Strother honed the skills that made him an effective communicator on the sideline.

During his 40-year career at Florien, which came to an end following the 2022-23 season, Strother collected 1,235 victories, winning more than 75 percent of his games.

Strother's career made the Lady Cats' synonymous with winning and postseason staples.

Florien reached the state playoffs 39 times in Strother's career, advancing to the semifinals 21 times. Six times Florien captured the ultimate prize in girls basketball, including a three-peat from 1991-93.

continued on next page

Family at the heart of 2025 N-Club induction ceremony



The 13 Northwestern State inductees into the N-Club Hall of Fame all shared stories during the induction ceremony. On the front row from left are Amanda Glenn Peters, Derrick Johnese, Gay McNutt, Josh Hancock and Heather Penico Morain. On the back row are Mike Crowe, Jermaine Wallace, Tyrone Mitchell, Toby Zeigler, David Reynolds, Amanda Bennett Aguilar, Layne Miller and Cody Fillinich. To read the full story, visit www.nsu.la/2025NClub.

Those wins helped Strother earn the Class B Coach of the Year honor from the Louisiana Sports Writers Association five times, including his final season. In addition to his coaching prowess, Strother served as Florien's athletic director for more than 30 years while also coaching softball and golf at times during his tenure.

Strother sent numerous players to the collegiate level, including 2012 N-Club Hall of Fame inductee Joskeen Garner.

Building a program with standouts like Garner helped Strother leave his mark on Louisiana basketball in a career that was maybe unexpected but not unappreciated.

McConathy's and Strother's inductions bring the total of Northwestern State alumni in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame to 14. They are the first competitive-ballot selections since weightlifting coach Gayle Hatch and basketball coach Geraldine "Jelly" Pigott each were enshrined in 2008.



Patty Hrapmann shared this photo of a few former Demon football players. "These guys played in the late 1960s and early 1970s and often gather at Homecoming to visit before heading to tailgating and the game. They met at the home of Melanie Lee and enjoyed discussing 'the good old days.'" From left are Ronnie Bagley of Longview, Texas; Tony Papa of Shreveport, Paul Tacker of Southlake, Texas; Vic Nyvall of Longview, Larry Gaudet of New Orleans, Bobby Koncak of Possum Kingdom, Texas; Mark Kalbacher of Shreveport, Mike Pool of Bossier City, Gordon Boogaerts of Shreveport, Walter Edler of New Orleans, Alwyn Phillips of Baton Rouge, Richard West of Garland, Texas, and Kenny Hrapmann of Thibodaux.

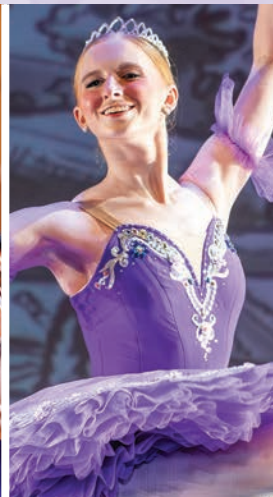
CAPA seeks nominations for 2026-2027 Hall of Fame

NSU's Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts is seeking nominations for the 2026-2027 CAPA Hall of Fame. The CAPA Hall of Fame was established in 2016 to honor individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to their field and/or CAPA. The Hall of Fame currently has 26 Inductees who represent the four departments in CAPA: Music, Theatre and Dance, Fine and Graphic Arts and New Media, Journalism and Communications Arts.

Nominees must have earned an undergraduate, graduate or honorary degree from the School of Creative and Performing Arts at least 20 years ago or have made significant contributions to their field and the School of Creative and Performing Arts. Nominees may be living or deceased. Letters of nomination must include information on the nominee's contributions to his or her field and/or to CAPA and additional information that supports the nomination. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2026.

To submit a nomination, visit <https://northwesternstatealumni.com/capa-hall-of-fame-nomination/>.

For more information, email CAPA Director Scott Burrell at nfburrellc@nsula.edu.



Check the CAPA calendar of events for dates and times for livestreamed events.
www.nsula.edu/capa/

In Memory

1953 - Mattie Sue Gahagan Butler,
Nov. 15, 2025, Natchitoches

1964 - Kathryn Janes Guttierrez,
Nov. 3, 2025, Allen, Texas

1965 - Betty Murray Ewing,
Nov. 3, 2025, Conroe, Texas

1967 - Mary Katherine "Kathy"
Moss Hudson, Oct. 28, 2025,
Wilmington, North Carolina

1968, 1969 - Will Adams Marston,
Oct. 7, 2024, Bossier City

1970 - Orville Lee "O.L." Evans,
Aug. 13, 2025, St. Joseph

1971 - Eleanor "Ellie" Younger Sheffer,
Oct. 5, 2025, Rosenberg, Texas

1973 - Jerry Dale Brevette Sr.,
June 20, 2025, Colfax

1978 - Rita Jane Polk Carlile,
Aug. 31, 2025, Natchitoches

1979 - Oddis "Bucky" Lee Dunbar Jr.,
June 29, 2024, Pineville

1983 - Thurlow Janice "Sissie" Mayeaux,
Sept. 17, 2025, Natchitoches
*Mrs. Mayeaux was on staff at
Watson Library for 25 years.*

1990 - Deborah Faye Fuller Jones,
Sept. 21, 2025, Big Sandy, Texas

William Perry Morgan, Aug. 29, 2025,
Greensboro, North Carolina
*Mr. Morgan was a former professor
of theatre.*

Alex Aichinger, Sept. 21, 2025,
Paradise, California
*Mr. Aichinger was a longtime
professor of political science at
NSU.*

Diana Frank, Nov. 19, 2025, Baton Rouge
*Ms. Frank served in the Purchasing
Department at NSU until her
retirement in 2018.*

Guess Who

The 37th Miss Northwestern-Lady of the Bracelet was crowned in February 1996, sweeping talent, evening gown and People's Choice Award. More than 1,200 people attended the event.

Can you name her and the runners-up? If so, email jacksonl@nsula.edu with your name, city of residence and year you graduated.



The athletes from September 1965 who were pictured in the Fall Guess Who were Donnie Carroll, quarterback; Gary Pittman, running back, and Ted Wimberly, center.

Those who guessed correctly are as follows.

Don Guidry (1969), Vidor, Texas

Steve Gaspard (1970), Spring, Texas

Dick Concilio (1970), Vero Beach, Florida "1965 was my redshirt year," he writes.

Janis Lowe (1969), Baton Rouge

John Ramin (1969), Pelican

Carole Fox Hartfield (1969), Shreveport

Catherine (1968, 1972) and Ken (1968, 1972) Bass, Denton, Texas

Christine Burczyk Allen, Natchitoches, Music faculty from 1987-2020



Looking Back



The 1976 Potpourri featured the NSU Puppeteers, one of the more unique Registered Student Organizations that was designed to promote interest in the art of puppetry. Members were, front row from left, Randy Carter, president; Hollie Hardeman, Cindy Morris, secretary; Ric Mayer, Janet Zaponne, Juanita Stanley, Larry Summral. On the second row are Michael S. Corrison, sponsor; Pam Taitano and Kelvin V. Kerr.



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The background of the flyer is a vibrant collage of Louisiana seafood dishes, including crawfish, oysters, and shrimp. In the upper left, there is a circular logo with a purple background and a gold border. The logo features a central circle with the text "Flavor of Louisiana" in a white script font, and "presented by NSU FOUNDATION" in a smaller white sans-serif font below it. The logo is surrounded by illustrations of various Louisiana seafood items: a crawfish at the top, a fish on the right, a shrimp on the left, and a crawfish at the bottom. In the center of the collage, there is a white plate with a piece of bread topped with a seafood mixture, with a "Ernest's" magazine in the background. To the right of this, there is a white bowl filled with a seafood mixture. In the bottom left, there is a white plate with several small shrimp. The text "save the date" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the bottom of the collage. Below this, the text "Flavor of Louisiana" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, and "Friday, March 20, 2026" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font at the very bottom.

save the date
Flavor of Louisiana
Friday, March 20, 2026